

District 8 Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting  
January 16, 2010 • 11:00 a.m.  
Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library  
2750 Highway K  
O'Fallon, MO 63368-7859

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dori Drummond at 11:16 a.m.

**Reading of District Mission**

Robin Anderson, Area 19 Governor, read the mission of the District.

**Special Presentation**

Randy Lanning, Division C Governor, introduced two students from Mascoutah High School Youth Leadership Program. The students presented invitations to their graduation ceremony to LGET Tim Spezia, LGM John Barry, and DG Dori Drummond.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda of the day was approved. Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor, moved that the agenda be approved as amended (adding Inmate Clubs under "Other Committee Reports"). The motion was seconded by Carole Breckner, Division A Governor. The motion carried.

**Quorum Report from IPDG**

IPDG Tony Gartner reported that a quorum was present.

Executive Committee Members Present:

District Elected Officers:

District 8 Governor – Dori Drummond  
Lt. Governor Education & Training – Tim Spezia  
Lt. Governor Marketing – John Barry  
Division A Governor – Carole Breckner  
Division B Governor – Kathryn Mokriakow  
Division C Governor – Randy Lanning  
Division E Governor, Awards & Recognition Chair – Curtis Scroggins  
Division F Governor – Thomas Ahillen

District Appointed Officers:

Treasurer – Tom Coscia  
Secretary – Frank Yates  
Public Relations Officer – Jacquie Vick

Area 3 Governor – William Levins  
Area 4 Governor – Paul Cook  
Area 6 Governor – Samantha Schaefer  
Area 8 Governor – Dossie (D. J.) Randle  
Area 9 Governor – Eric Heng  
Area 12 Governor – Jane Clark

Area 15 Governor – Raymond Allen  
Area 16 Governor – Lydia Pochedly  
Area 19 Governor – Robin Anderson  
Area 20 Governor – Brenda English

**Committee Chairs:**

Immediate Past District Governor, Credentials Chair, Nominating, Realignment –  
Tony Gartner  
Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), January 2010 – Julie Siess

**Executive Committee Members Excused/Absent:**

Sergeant-at-Arms, Resource Manual – David Mallory  
Area 1 Governor, Communic-8 – Joann York  
Area 2 Governor – Sherri Rogers  
Area 5 Governor – Karen Cupp  
Area 7 Governor – Margie Anglen  
Area 10 Governor – Anastasia Lingle  
Area 13 Governor – Nadia LaFlam  
Area 18 Governor – Kristi Holsinger  
Area 21 Governor – Tom Houston

**Secretary Minutes**

The minutes of the October 3, 2009 DEC Meeting were distributed to the Committee. Thomas Ahillen, Division F Governor, moved that the minutes be approved as amended (minor changes submitted by Dori Drummond). The motion was seconded by Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tom Coscia presented the Treasurer's Report for November, 2009 and December, 2009. The reports are now two pages instead of the original eight pages.

Funds available in November were \$39,319.63. Money was spent in November on Goal Getter ribbons, a new club banner, New Member brochures, DTM medallions, expenses for the TI convention, Secretary travel, and District Governor travel.

Funds available in December were \$37,408.08. Money was spent in December on Ring the Bell Award vouchers, answering service, Recognition plaques, DTM engraving, bulk postage permit, and Council Meeting travel expenses.

Full reports are available for anyone who requests them. The reports were received and will be filed for audit.

There was a break for divisions to caucus.

## **Officer Reports**

### **Division A Governor — Carole Breckner**

A goal is to be distinguished this year. The Area 4 contest will be held on March 20, at Twin Rivers WORD Masters. The Area 9 contest will be held on March 20 at Unigroup Toastmasters. The Division A contest will be held on April 24 at Jefferson College in Arnold. Jeffco Challengers, in Area 4, needs help with attendance. The club currently has a club coach. Unigroup Toastmasters will be celebrating Black History Month and is looking for a speaker for the special meeting. Thirteen new members have joined Crossroads.

### **Division B Governor — Kathryn Mokriakow**

Mastertoasters held a tabling event, and now has 43 members. Alton has 6 members, a new web site, and a club coach. Area 20 has three clubs with five or more DCP goals. The Covidien Communicators held an open house in December. River City Toastmasters has a new President. Scriptmasters is holding a Welcome Back to Toastmasters event in February or March. Orator's Club Harrah's St. Louis Toastmasters is a new club as of July 1 in Area 16. Grace Church Toastmasters needs assistance with developing the new members that they have brought in. The Area 20 contest will be held on March 20. Two clubs being uncooperative and Kat would appreciate advice on how to deal with them.

### **Division C Governor — Randy Lanning**

Division C is going through a time of turmoil. Joann York, Area 1 Governor, has a new job and has moved out of the area. She has asked to retain her position as Area Governor. One club has 22 members and has met 5 DCP goals. The other four clubs are struggling go get their membership up to 20 or a net growth of five members. Tri-County qualifies for club coach. UIS has not reached their charter membership goal, but is working to reach that goal. The Area 6 contest will be held on March 27. The Collinsville and Fairview Heights Toastmasters will be celebrating their 30th Anniversaries. Randy is trying to start a new club at the First Baptist Church in O'Fallon. The Area 10 Governor is now Anastasia Lingle, who replaced Aprill Edwards. A Satellite TLI will be held on February 6 in the Springfield area. The Lord Effingham club has seven new members so far this year.

### **Division E Governor — Curtis Scroggins**

Everything is Exciting in Division E. The majority of clubs have held holiday parties. Lincoln University will hold a demo meeting on January 20. Isle of Capri casino and Boonville Correctional Center are potential locations for new clubs. The Area 14 Governor has resigned. The Alpha Club at the Missouri State Penitentiary wants to become a full Toastmasters club. The Courage To Grow club is struggling with membership as the company downsizes. The Area 21 contest will hopefully be at Talu Toastmasters, but the contest date has not been set. The Division E Satellite TLI will be held on February 20.

### **Division F Governor — Thomas Ahillen**

Division F is Fantastic. A Primary Conversations member, Regina Dennis, is in Haiti working for the US Embassy. She arrived one week before the earthquake and is doing well. Primary Conversation has earned five DCP points. SLU Masters has grown to the point where it does not need a club coach. The Commerce Bank club received their banner on December 10. Anheuser-Busch had a member exchange with Primary Conversations.

### **Marketing Report — John Barry, LGM**

The winner of the Membership Contest is Crossroads Toastmasters. They will receive a \$50 pizza party. They signed up 13 new members during the two-and-a-half month period, and 19 new members since July 1. Three new clubs have been formed this year. A club close to charter strength is Swansea BizPro with 18 members. Several new prospective clubs are State Farm Bank, Ascension Health Systems, West Plains Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln University, Our Savior Lutheran Church, and Shalom Church. Several prospective clubs that have been trying to charter and just need a nudge are City of St. Peters, H&R Block, Church on the Rock, and MoDot. New leads for clubs include Ameren, KV Pharmaceuticals, Memorial Health Systems, and Horace Mann.

### **Education and Training Report — Tim Spezia, LGET**

The Fall Conference was a great success. Some things could have gone better. Tim is still working on the evaluations, and will produce a lessons learned document. For District 8 educational awards, 92 Competent Communicator Awards have been turned in, which is 62% of the goal. Also, 40 Competent Leader Awards have been turned in, which is 54% of the goal. Twin Rivers WORD Masters now has 37 members and has turned in 13 CCs. When scheduling Area and Division Contests, stay away from Easter weekend. Avoid too many contests on same weekend. The Spring Conference will be held on May 7–8, 2010 at the Route 66 Hotel in Springfield, IL. The June TLI chair is still needed. The Top Three mid-year training for the region was held in St. Louis. The District Website has the times posted for the TLI. If a club gets all officers trained, they will have their choice of Successful Club Series or Leadership Excellence Series. The Fall 2010 Conference Chairperson is also needed.

Paul Cook, and Julie Siess, co-chairs of the January TLI, presented their plans. They are using this event for their High Performance Leadership projects.

### **District Governor's Report — Dori Drummond**

District 8 has met over 60 percent of its CC goal. At the end of December, District 8 has recruited six more new members than we had at this time last year. Membership numbers as a whole are probably down about four to five percent below last year. Area governors need to get out and make their club visits. The club visit reports need to be filed before the end of April. Please be sure to submit your club visit reports online as the visits occur rather than waiting until all visits have been completed before submitting any reports. If a club has a particular challenge, we need to know as soon as possible so we can help them. Some area governors have worked hard to contact club officers

and past club officers for clubs that were not meeting and have gotten them to renew their memberships. The District now stands at 99 paid clubs and this is the year that we will have 100 or more paid clubs at the end of the year. Area Council meetings should be held in February, April, and June. Division Council meetings should be held in March and June. This schedule will help each of you organize your contests and to know where every club is on their Club Success Plan. Open House meetings have made a big difference in membership growth. January is the third best month for membership recruitment. Thirty-eight clubs have three or more DCP points. District 8 is poised to be distinguished three years in a row, something it hasn't done in 21 years. Just as we have a parade of dignitaries for the Top Three, we will have a parade of dignitaries for the Area Governors and Division Governors who have achieved distinguished or higher status by the Spring Conference.

### **Committee Reports**

Tony Gartner reported for Long Range Planning, Nominations, and Realignment. Before the last Conference, the Long Range Planning Committee studied top districts in the world to see what it takes to become President's Distinguished. The areas where District 8 fell short were in Members and Membership Payments. Both numbers and percentages are important. Several of the past District Governors met at the Conference and discussed the findings. Two of the past District Governors did not think it important for the District to strive to be President's Distinguished. Tony and the others thought that it was important. Membership is the most important factor. Tony has not heard of much need for realignment of clubs and areas. Tony is accepting names for positions for next year.

Dori Drummond reported for the Speakers Bureau Committee. Kevin Desrosiers is still looking for people to go out to the general public and give speeches.

Jacquie Vick reported for Public Relations. She has received some emails from club VPPRs with newsletters. The committee has explored some ideas on how to create some awareness and generate excitement about Toastmasters. One idea is a billboard. Another need is to make ourselves visible in the community. An upcoming event is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Louis. Activities discussed include having a float, or volunteer for the parade and wearing Toastmasters T-shirts, or staff water stations. A group has been created on LinkedIn. Between 10 and 15 members are participating on the site.

Dori Drummond reported for the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee is in transition. Dori has learned that Districts can have procedures, but not policies. Mary Kerwin will be reviewing the District Resource Manual (after World Headquarters completes its review) and sharing it with the Division Governors.

Dori Drummond reported for the Freetoasthost Committee. Jennifer Merritt has volunteered to help prospective clubs set up their Freetoasthost websites by providing technical advice and assistance.

Dori Drummond reported for the Hotline Committee. The Hotline is not being utilized very much. The District is spending \$1,200 each year on this service and we need to evaluate whether we should keep it or cancel it.

Dori Drummond reported for the Inmate Club Committee. A few years ago at the conferences, silent auctions were held to raise funds to subsidize the dues for inmates without means. Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor, moved that Dori Drummond be authorized to proceed with negotiations with TI and State of Illinois Department of Corrections to allow subsidizing membership dues for inmates in prison clubs in the amount of \$15 maximum per inmate. Lydia Pochedly, Area 16 Governor, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dori Drummond reported for the Club Coach Committee. Clubs that have been assigned coaches are Alton club, Ken Degler Lincoln Trails, and Smedley Hometown Memorial.

**Unfinished Business**

As stated earlier in the meeting, two clubs will be celebrating their 30th Anniversaries this year. Kat Mokriakow will coordinate, monitor anniversary dates, and notify the clubs.

**New Business**

none

**Announcements**

none

**Adjourn**

Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Robin Anderson, Area 19 Governor. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Yates, District Secretary